

April 22, 2019

Mr. Howard Chan
City Manager
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Sacramento Economic Growth and Equity Coalition

Dear Mr. Chan,

We are writing to express our support for spending dollars generated by the new half-cent Measure U sales tax to create an inclusive economy that works for and values all of Sacramento's residents. On that basis, we respectfully request the City move 100% of Measure U funds to the City's General Fund and earmark those dollars for economic growth and economic equity.

Members of this coalition supported Mayor Darrell Steinberg and the half cent increase of Measure U because of the promise that the additional revenue raised would be used to intentionally grow Sacramento's economy. This promise provides the opportunity for all Sacramento neighborhoods to participate in sustainable and inclusive prosperity and to access the economic leadership and power to build their own opportunities.

Numerous studies have shown that, unless we close the achievement and income gap in our city, we will not have the population of workers needed to attract the industries nor fill the jobs we are working so hard to create. Moreover, three-quarters of the jobs in our region now require high to medium levels of digital skills, but only 18 percent of Latino and black residents obtain a four-year degree, and only half continue beyond high school. The impact of this inequity does not stop at neighborhood boundaries; this is a city-wide challenge poised to worsen in the decades to come.

Lower-income neighborhoods in Sacramento were among the strongest backers of the expanded Measure U sales tax. Many residents decided it was worth taxing themselves to purchase the promise of hope for their children, families and communities. They understood that in order to close the opportunity divide in our city, investments in youth development and the arts were needed. They now expect a return on their investment in the promise of economic inclusion and independence.

The business community also agreed to tax themselves in order to create opportunity for all neighborhoods to share in the prosperity of the region. They understood that without intentional investment and the ability to create high-wage jobs and sustainable businesses, Sacramento will never become a world-class city.

Sacramento voters did not support raising the Measure U sales tax to see their money diverted to pay for pension benefits or traditional government services – important as those needs are.

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Investing these funds to expand our jobs base and grow a contributing workforce is the only way to create a healthy tax base that will provide true long-term stability for our city.

Many took the leap of faith to support this measure and the city owes it to them to follow through on the vision of a city that values the potential of its residents. This is your opportunity to build trust and create measurable impact for the citizens that look to your leadership in times of need.

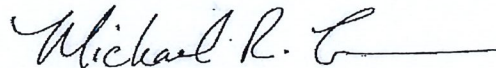
We urge you to support dedicating the new half cent Measure U sales tax to real investment in the people of Sacramento, through job creation, business growth, youth development and affordable housing.

Our newly-formed coalition will work to ensure that inclusive economic growth is a priority as the City Council votes on allocation of Measure U funds. We intend to fight any attempt to use the money for business as usual.

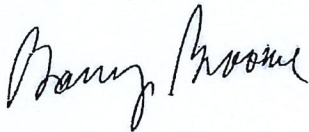
We look forward to meeting with you soon.



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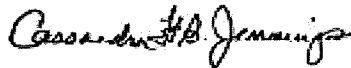


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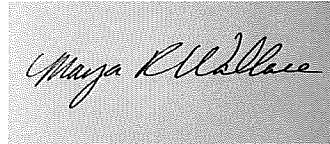
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